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A GENERAL
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READ
IN THE
Fear of God.
In and amongst the
ASSEMBLIES
OF HIS
PEOPLE.

By *William Dewsbury.*



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A GENERAL
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My Dear Friends,

IN the *Light* of the Lord all *Watch and Pray*, that
you may receive *Power* through *Faith* in the
Name of Christ to *Reign* over your own *Thoughts*
and *Wills*; then will you *Delight* in taking up the
A 2 *Daily*

Daily Cross to the Mortifying of the Earthly Members: That your Conversations may be as becometh the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, which will make you Manifest to the Witnesses of God in every Confidence, that you are the Salt of the Earth; that have kept your State and Habitation in God, and doth retain the Sweet Savoury Spirit of Life, which seasons all your Words and Works, and Ministers Grace to all with whom you have any concern; to the Exalting Gods Blessed Truth over all that Watch for Evil which will cause their Eyes to fail, and frustrate their Expectations for ever, Amen.

And Dear Friends,

I Beseech you be Faithful upon all Accounts, for the Service of the Blessed Truth of God; to meet together in his Holy Fear, that you may receive the Holy Inspiration of his Spirit to Exercise you in what Service God is pleased to call you unto; whether in Prayer to God, or in Exhortation to Build up one another in your most Holy Faith; to raise up the the Life in all, that every one that's Overcome with the Powerful and Heavenly Motions, cast their Mite into Gods Treasury, and give him his own Advantage; so will you feel the Encrease of his Government in you that are Faithful, in the true Measure of Light and Life; more and more he will give unto you, to the Edifying of one another in love: So will you become Epistles written in one anothers hearts, with the Pure Spirit of the Living God; which will bind you up in the Unity of the Spirit, and Bond of Peace; and what Exercise soever is met withal, whilst you are in the Mortal Body, Pray to the

the Lord to keep you in the Life of his own Spirit; that Patience may have its Perfect work, that if you be Smitten on the one Cheek, turn the other Cheek to the Smiter also, and if you be Reviled, Revile not again; but in deep Humility and Patience Wait in the Pure, Meek, and Peaceable Spirit of our Lord Jesus who was made perfect through Sufferings: So are his Dear and Chosen Jewels, who bear his Name in Righteousness and have their Eye to the God of their Help, and their Confidence in the Lord alone.

Oh ye Blessed of the Lord,

BE Glad in his Name, who will not let any of you Suffer (whose Confidence is in him alone) any more than he will give Strength to Bear, and will Sweeten the Cup of your Tribulation with his Blessed Presence, which will cause your Hearts to Rejoyce and Sing in all your Tryals; and will give you your Portion for ever with the Blessed Assembly, that John Spoke of in the seventh of the Revelations: A number that no man could number, that had passed through the Great Tribulation, and washed their Garments, and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb: Therefore are they before the Throne of God, and serve him day and night in his Holy Temple; and he that sitteth on the Throne shall dwell among them, and Feed them and lead them to the Living Fountains of waters, where God will wipe away all Tears of Sorrow from their Eyes for ever.

And

And this is your *Portion*, you **Dear Children** of the **Living God**, who in true *Love* to him have *waited* upon him, in the *Light* of *Christ*, *To be Buried with him in his Spiritual Baptism*, and made conformable to him in his **Sufferings** and **Death**; Norwithstanding your *Strit walking in Observations* [which must be done according to what the Lord manifests to you, or else you perish Eternally] without *True Repentance*.

And in the Deep sense of your *Present Strait*, being made *Conformable in Measure* to our Lord and Saviour; you Cry as he did upon the Cross, *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me* (when he bare the *Sins* and *Transgressions of his People*) Even so do you his **Dear Children** in your *Measure* passing through the *Great Tribulations*, being made of the *Number of the Slain of the Lord*.

Here is first a passing *Through the Great Tribulation*, and to be made of the *Number of the Slain of the Lord*; and being truly *Humbled* into his *Blessed Will*, in the *Deed Sense* of the *Poverty of Spirit*, there *Wait upon the Lord*, until he *Create you to a lively Hope*, and give you a *Possession of his Blessed Life*, that is *Hid with Christ in God*, and so marry you to himself in his *own Righteousness*, which he gives you for to be your *Wedding Garment*.

And now this *Love of God* *constrains you to walk* in all *Strit Observations* that are *Required* of you to be done; but no more to *Lean upon them for Life*, but have now all your **Obediences** accepted of God through *Faith* in the *Light, Life, and Name of Christ*, in whom you now
are

are the *Righteousness* of God for ever, in Giving up
Freely to be Guided by his *Spirit* in Faithfulness to the
 end.

Oh you ever Blessed and Happy People! Who doth
Witness Fulfilled in you what is here Written; Lift up
 your Heads and Rejoyce in the Lord, and in the *Almighty*
Power of his *Humble*, *Meek* and *Pure Spirit*, which makes
Self of no *Reputation*, but through your *Obedience* to
 Christ Jesus the **True Light**, in whom you come to
Witness the Lord to be One, and his Name One; and you
 that never had *Power* to Believe in his Name, until he
 gave you *Power* to Believe; you are One in the Lord for
 ever. And here is the *Joyful* and *Eternal Unity* with the
 Father in the Son, and one with another in the Love of
 Christ which bought us with his Blood, which the Gates of
 Hell can never Prevail against.

And all you my Ancient Brethren and Sisters,
 that have Obtained this Blessed Dominion and Everlasting
 Inheritance; I Bless God for you, whom I do Believe
 will take Care to Answer the Desire of my Soul as be-
 fore-written: For the Comfort of the Young and Tender
 Babes, for whose Sake I had this Concern upon my Spi-
 rit, to lay before them the True Passage into the Foot-
 steps, where the Tribulated Companions have Travelled
 that are Married to the Lord of Life, and have upon
 them their Wedding Garment, that they may not come
 Short that are upon their Travel towards the same
 Inheritance in Christ the **True Light**, as before ex-
 press.

And I Dearly beseech you, whom God hath Sealed up (with his Holy Spirit to your full Assurance of Gods Everlasting Love in Christ Jesus) that you Watch over the Tender and Tribulated ones; and in what possible can be done, to Strengthen their Faith, that they may come into the Heavenly Unity with the Father in the Son; and Sit down with all them, that have been made Conformable to Christ in his Suffering and Death, that in the Heavenly Resurrection; Blessed and Everlasting Peace, they may Sing Hallelujah, and High Praises to the Lord their God, over all the wrath that's in the Children of men; which will come to an end, and vanish away like Smoke, before you whom the Lord hath called in meekness and Patience to bear his Name in Righteousness, in the Sweet Savoury Spirit of Jesus Christ, over all Blessed for ever, Amen. In which the Lord keep you all, with my Soul, Faithful unto the end; is the Breathings of the Spirit of your Brother and Companion in the Kingdom of Patience and Tribulation in the Lord Jesus Christ.

William Dewsbury.

And

AND further, I have this to communicate to my *Friends and Brethren*; that what hath come to pass these late years, for want of *Watchfulness* to be *Guided* by the Spirit of the Lord: *Love hath been quenched in many, that Offences hath entred, and Separation followed*; which hath *Deeply* wounded my Spirit, who have endeavoured to the utmost of my *Power* in the *Love of God* to *prevent* such *Proceedings*; and so have I done in many years past, in *preventing* Papers ready to be *Printed* from being *Published*, that were of a tendency to *quench* the *Love* of one towards another: And when *Jeffery Bullocks* Papers were published in *Print*, which would appear to the Reader of a tendency as to the *Breach of Unity*; (which would cause the *Enemies* of God to *Rejoyce*, it did so wound my Spirit, that for *many Weeks*, they that *saw* me did not expect that I would *continue long* in the *Body*: But God in his *Mercy* Restored *Strength* in his *Appointed time*.

And when I did hear that some in the *West*, did intend to *Publish in Print* some *Friends Weaknesses*: I *Bore* my *Testimony* against such *Proceedings*, and told one that did *Favour what was intended*, That I would have my *Hand Cut off*, before I would *Exercise* it in such *Undertakings* (as the *state of Friends* was at that time.) And desired him, *To speak* to *W. R.* that he would not proceed in *Publishing* any thing of that *Nature*; for if he did, it would be a *prejudice* to *Truth*, and would produce very *sad Consequences* that would follow, and my Spirit would be *deeply wounded*, as it is this day, through these *Proceedings*; that voluntarily through want of *Love*, casts away the *Judgment*, that is given to the people of the

the Saints of the most High God (to keep all sweet and laboury amongst us) into the Hands of the Enemies of God, as an inlet for them to come into the midst of us, to sit as Judges and trample upon us.

Soto Clear my Conscience of all False Reports Cast upon me, as that I have Encouraged what is Brought forth as before written; and to Satisfie all Friends in God, I have Laboured according to the Ability God hath given me, to Prevent the Publishing all things of that Nature, as aforesaid; and have Endeavoured with all concerned, that I could meet with: to have a care of watching for Evil, lest they Provoke one another to Wrath, and so Quench the Love: But rather Look at the Good one in another, and in the Love of God, Minister, to Preserve them forth of any Weakness they did see lay near to attend them; that so the Pure Holy Spirit of Light, Life and Love, that first Gathered us into it self, to be a People in God, and in his Blessed Authority to reign over what was, and is contrary to his Blessed Nature, may again Restore, (where it is wanting) in the Universality of its Blessed Power, to make up the Breaches, and to Restore the Desolate ones, in causing every one that Professeth the Blessed Truth of God, to love their Neighbour as themselves; and so to do unto all, as they would have others to do unto them; that so all concerned in the Exercise, in the Measure of the Grace of God in Christ, (that seeks the Peace of his People) may Stand as Saviours upon mount Sion, to the Honour of the Name of the Lord our God, and the Eternal Comfort of all that Love not their Lives unto Death, to serve the Lord, and his Dear and Chosen People, in the Meek, Patient, and Peaceable Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In which the Lord *keep you* all with my *Soul*; that in his Pure and Peaceable Dominion, we all Reign, and throw down our Crowns before his Throne. and all Unanimously Sing, all Glory, Honour, Praises, Thanksgiving, and Dominion be given to him, who is found worthy to sit upon his Throne in all our Consciences, Christ Jesus the True Light, and hope of our Glory, even so be it with all that *Professeth* his Blessed Truth: Saith my Soul in the Name of the Lord.

From Warwick the 8th.
day of the 3d. Month
1682.

W. D.
